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SUBJECT: PANAMA: PRESIDENT OBAMA INVITED TO ATTEND
INAUGURATION OF NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT RICARDO MARTINELLI

¶1. (U) Ambassador Stephenson received a letter addressed to President Obama from current President of Panama Martin Torrijos. The letter invited President Obama to attend the inauguration ceremonies for newly elected President of Panama Ricardo Martinelli, to be held on June 30 and July 1, 2009.

¶2. (U) Begin unofficial translation:

Republic of Panama
Presidency

7 May 2009
DS-N-045-09

Mr. President:

It is my pleasure to bring to Your Excellency's attention my fraternal greetings and to express to you my complete satisfaction for the ties of friendship that exist between our two countries.

This last May 3 the Panamanian people voted for the highest authorities to lead their destiny for the period of 2009-2014.

As a result of these elections, Mr. Ricardo Alberto Martinelli Berrocal was elected as President of the Republic of Panama who will assume the First Magistrateship of the Nation on July 1, 2009.

With this in mind, I am honored to extend to Your Excellency the most cordial invitation to participate in the Acts of Transmission of Presidential Authority that will be held on June 30 and July 1 of the current year.

Hoping to count on Your Excellency's presence, I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my highest esteem and distinguished consideration.

Martin Torrijos Espino
President of the Republic

To His Excellency Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
Washington

STEPHENSON